(b) the technical consultancy capabilities in the State of Andhra Pradesh and manpower engaged for the purpose;

(c) whether the consultancy services remain underutilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) In its 'vision & strategy CSIR 2001' document CSIR has enunciated its strategy for technological self reliance *interalia* focussing on :

(i) Technology for Economic growth by partnering Indian industry enabling it to emerge as a significant global player and assisting the nation in deriving enhanced and sustainable value from endegenous services.

(ii) Technology for human welfare by providing S&T based solutions to mitigate the vulnerability and improve the quality of life, especially, for the weaker and disadvantaged sections of the society.

(b) As per study on consultancy capabilities in the State of Andhra Pradesh, there were around 275 consultants/consultancy organisations, institutions, in-house consultancy cells/divisions of the large and medium industry and machinery manufacturers providing consultancy services. The capabilities include preparation of feasibility and project reports, detailed project consultancy, design & development of plant and machinery, technology upgradation and modernisation, polluton control and productivity enhancement. The area of services include civil engineering, computer software, geology and mining, food industry, paper industry, drugs & pharmaceuticals and chemicals. Total manpower engaged in consultancy services is about 2400.

(c) and (d) Awareness about such consultancy services and the areas of their specialisation is gradually increasing amongst the user groups which will ensure optimal levels of utilisation of these services in course of time.

Provision of Compensation

2639. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any provision of compensation for financial losses due to delay in supply of gas to power projects;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in supply of gas by the Government to Ramgarh Gas based Extension Power Project of Rajasthan ;

(c) the revised schedule for full supply of gas to Ramgarh Extension Project;

(d) whether the delay in supply of gas, kept under utilisation of power plant; and

(e) if so, the details of compensation to RSEB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) As against the original schedule of April. 1995. Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) completed its project in January, 1996 whereas Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) was ready for supply of gas in November, 1995. However, gas supply to Ramgarh power project of 35 MW capacity could commence from July, 1996. Presently. Oil India Limited has offered to supply committed quantity of gas and RSEB is drawing gas as per its requirement.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Communication Projects in Maharashtra

2640. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the major communication projects in Maharashtra awaiting clearance from the Union Authorities and their present status thereof, project-wise; and

(b) the position in regard to the availability of equipments and the fiscal targets set up for the current year for completion of the ongoing projects?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There is no major communication project in Maharashtra awaiting clearance from the Telecom. Commission.

(b) To meet the physical targets set for Maharashtra for the current year 1997-98 the equipments for some of the ongoing projects have already been received and for the remaining projects necessary action has been initiated for the procurement of required equipments and these are likely to be available during the current year.

Necessary funds to achieve the physical targets for Maharashtra are being made available.

Route of present Darjeeling Mail

2641. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for routing the present Darjeeling Mail through Bangladesh to New Jalpaiguri; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

[Translation]

AIR Station in Rajasthan

2642. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the AIR broadcast centres opened in Rajasthan so far; and

(b) the number of such centres proposed to be opened during the next Five Year Plan, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Presently, seventeen AIR Broadcasting stations/relay centres are under operation in Rajasthan. These are located at Jaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Suratgarh, Kota, Alwar, Nagpur, Banswara, Chittorgarh, Barmer, Sawai Madhopur, Churu, Jhalawar, Jaisalmer and Mount Abu.

(b) During IX Plan, there is a proposal to set up Broadcasting stations at Dungarpur and Sriganga Nagar in Rajasthan subject to the approval by the competent authority and availability of adequate financial resources.

[English]

Construction of Latrines under Rural Sanitation Programme

2643. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the year during which the cost of construction per latrine was worked out last and the total cost so worked out;

(b) the total cost per latrine worked out during 1997;

(c) the reasons for not revising the cost in view of the increased cost of construction; and

(d) the time bound programme for implementing the revised cost of latrines under Rural Sanitation Programme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) In 1991-92 the unit cost of construction of a latrine under Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme was worked out Rs. 2500/-

(b) to (d) Revised cost has not been worked out in 1997. The States/UTs have been permitted to meet the difference between the actual cost and Rs. 2500 from out of their State Sector Minimum Needs Programme.

Panel on Power Plants

2644. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "panel on power plants update on the cards" appearing in the *Financial Express* dated 15.7.1997;

(b) if so, details of the proposal finalised/under consideration of the Government; and

(c) the number of Power Plants in the country requiring renovation/update and estimates of cost involved and strategies finalised to take up the programme to improve power generation through efficient operations of the existing old projects-targets set physical and financial under the scheme State-wise for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has proposed to provide funds at concessional rate of interest through PFC for accelerating the generation programme which would also include R&M activities. Under the programme. PFC would lend money to the State Electricity Boards at interest rate which is proposed to be 4% lower than the normal rate of interest. A sum of Rs. 200 crores has been proposed for meeting the interest subsidy for the year 1997-98. A committee including representatives of CEA. BHEL, Planning Commission and PFC would monitor the progress of R & M programme.

(c) In order to improve the performance of existing old thermal power plants a programme for R&M was taken up in 1990-91 by the Government of India for implementation during the 8th Plan. Under this programme, 44 thermal power stations comprising 198 units aggregating to a total capcity of 20869.435 MW at an estimated cost of Rs. 2383 crores are covered. Similarly. 55 hydro schemes with an aggregate capacity of 9653 MW were identified which required renovation modernisation and uprating. The total estimated cost of these schemes is Rs. 1493 crores.

A Statement showing power stations targetted to be completed during the year 1997-98, State-wise is attached.